

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 20, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

*On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.*

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 17, 2003 (2400)**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5  
National Preparedness Level = 5*

- **93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:**
  - ***Black Mountain 2 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 6,526 acres, 45% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 836 personnel assigned. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) will assume command 8/20 at 0600.***
  - ***Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) – 15,367 acres, 30% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula, 1149 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 10,400 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 418 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,000 acres, 60% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls 399 personnel assigned.***
- **Eastern Montana Zone MAC**
  - ***Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,900 acres, 85% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff, 378 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 8,580 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles E of Lane Deer, 308 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker), 16,100 acres, 63% contained, 358 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 29,480 acres, 55% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin, 554 personnel assigned.***
- **93 East Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:**
  - ***Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 16,500 acres, 10% contained, 11 miles E of Florence, 743 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 6,668 acres, 10% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, 455 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 3,825 acres, 75% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula, 758 personnel assigned.***
  - ***Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 14,000***

- acres, 5% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula, 567 personnel assigned.
    - Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt), 1,300 acres, 65% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula, 262 personnel assigned.
  - Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:
    - Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 11,080 acres, 5% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln, 504 personnel assigned.
    - Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 9,000 acres, 10% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview, 276 personnel assigned.
    - East – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 15,800 acres, 12% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
    - Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 2,075 acres, 5% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston, 518 personnel assigned.
    - Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 1,065 acres, 5% contained, 10 miles S of Nye, 216 personnel assigned.
    - Burnt Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) 788 acres, 29% contained, 3.5 miles NW of Neihart, 304 personnel assigned.
    - Sheep Complex – 883 acres, 50% contained, 28 miles N of Townsend. Type 2 Incident Management (Hendricks), 82 personnel assigned.
  - Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:
    - Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 9,926 acres, 18% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius, 627 personnel assigned.
    - Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 43,057 acres, 45% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls, 725 personnel assigned.
    - Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 41,196 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka, 603 personnel assigned.
    - Trapper Creek Complex – Complex is 24,862 acres, 65% contained, 25 personnel assigned, 45 miles NE of Kalispell.
    - Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 21,404 acre Fire complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 81 personnel assigned.

B. Initial Attack *Light initial attack – 19 new fires 2,105 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

**STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT**  
**945 AM MDT WED AUG 20 2003**

*Red Flag Warning Continues Through This Afternoon For A Cold Frontal Passage With A Wind Shift Followed By Strong And Gusty Winds from the West/Northwest Winds Combined With Low Relative Humidities And High To Very High Fire Danger Active Fires And A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms.*

*Fire Weather Zones Included In This Warning Are:*  
**MONTANA ZONES 112 THROUGH 133**

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

*Today - Mostly Sunny With Areas Of Smoke. Highs 81 To 91.*  
*Tonight - Mostly Clear With Areas Of Smoke. Lows 40 To 50.*  
*Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs 84 To 94.*

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

*Today - Mostly Sunny. Breezy And Smoky. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.*  
*Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.*  
*Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.*

***SOUTHWEST MONTANA******Today - Mostly Sunny. Breezy And Smoky. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.******Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Upper 30s To Upper 40s.******Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Upper 70s To Upper 80s.******EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA******Today - Partly Cloudy And Windy. A Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The 80s To Lower 90s.******Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The 50s.******Thursday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The 80s.*****III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:*****The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:***

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03

**IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:****State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Army National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	6 Overhead
	3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	53 Aviation/Aviation Support
	4 1 ¼ TRAILER	262 Soldiers assigned Fire Crews
	8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
	5 M1009 CONTACT TRUCK	
	2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
<b>3 Aircraft Modules Assigned</b>	<b>73 HVY Equipment Assigned</b>	<b>321 Soldiers Assigned</b>

**Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:

Northwest Area Command  
93 West & 93 East Area Command  
Central Command  
Sweetgrass & Missoula Counties

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)